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An Oriental Garden Featuring Tree Peonies  
Boston Spring Flower Show 1957

Jewels  
For Your  
Garden

By

MARINUS VANDER POL

Washington Street — Route 6,  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Dear Friends:

Many fine American Gardens have missed two of the most exotic garden jewels for too long — the Tree Peony and the Christmas Rose.

I want to introduce these plants to you. The Tree Peony is perhaps somewhat slow to establish and develop into large lush growing plants, however those that are properly planted in the right place soon become the "Kings of the Garden" and are an excellent investment which will thrill garden enthusiasts with their magnificent blooms for many years.

The Christmas Rose also is a spectacle to behold in both its white and red forms. Those who have seen its bloom all agree that it is perfection in its wide application and adaptability in their gardens.

On the following pages I have noted some facts about these Garden Jewels. I hope you will enjoy this presentation and will try these plants in your Garden.

We carry a complete listing of Nursery stock, prices of which will be furnished on your request.

Sincerely yours,



MARINUS VANDER POL

MARINUS VANDER POL  
Washington Street — Route 6  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Member of

American Nurserymen Association  
New England Nurserymen Association  
Massachusetts Nurserymen Association  
National Landscape Nurserymen Association  
Massachusetts Horticultural Society



## THE TREE PEONY

The Tree Peony is truly the aristocrat of the garden, and justly so. Its unusual beauty lends distinction and charm to any garden. The colors of the Tree Peony are different from those of the regular herbaceous peony; not only do they possess the finest shades of pink, red and white, but they develop flowers of pure yellow, yellow and orange, lavenders, violets and purples, and it often grows three to four feet in height.

Its known history dates back before the Chinese author, Hung King (536), who writes about its medicinal values and its ornamental uses. Early European explorers reported that the Tree Peony was native to Central China in the Canton regions. However, Robert Fortune on his trip to China in 1846 discovered that the plant did not grow wild at Canton, but, in fact, was grown in the mountain regions of the north and carried in open baskets 1000 miles by boat to the markets. At Canton, Tree Peonies were potted and the warmth of the climate started them to fulfill their mission as ornamentals for the halls, balconies and gardens of the wealthy Cantonese. Their value was determined by the number of blooms with choice varieties selling for "100 ounces of Gold".

This seems like a high price to pay for a potted plant, but when first introduced to European gardens in 1789 Tree Peonies were sold for as much as 100 louis d'or (\$460.00) each.

The Tree Peony came to America in the early 19th Century from England. To propagate this plant requires patience and skill, because it grew slowly, it therefore remained out of reach of all but the very rich.

Today's techniques and propagating methods have done much to bring these exotic plants within the reach of most gardens. Hybridizers have done wonders to obtain larger blooms, and more exciting colors for your garden.

### *Where To Use The Tree Peony*

These plants can be used in a variety of locations; as a focal point in a design, accents to the entrance of your home, massive plantings in beds or with sizable screens of evergreens, lilacs or Ivy covered walls. Your imagination can produce many attractive and interesting pictures in your garden. In New England, the Tree Peony is used to great advantage with a large assortment of evergreen shrubs and hillside plantings, where it adds color and character not obtainable with any other plant.



An excellent combination and companion is the Helleborus Niger (Christmas Rose) both in the red and white forms. A massive planting of Tree Peonies with a low planting of Helleborus provides a year round effect with two flowering seasons. The Helleborus is evergreen, appreciates shade in summer, and full light in winter. Its flowers appear from late fall through to May, when the Tree Peony takes over for the summer. Foliage of both plants is very similar in appearance.

The several pictures show varying uses to which the Tree Peony lends itself. The front cover is our exhibit at the 1957 Boston Spring Flower Show. On page 5 a Japanese version of a focal point, and on page 3 a New England adaption of great merit.

### *Care and Hardiness*

The Tree Peonies are very hardy and northern nurseries have grown them for many years without any winter kill. In fact, they need some winter weather in order to give them a rest. They do best in those areas north of the Southern states including Georgia. A rich sandy loam, which is well drained gives the best results. Like so many other plants, the Tree Peony does not like their feet to stay wet.

The Tree Peony does not require much attention to do well, however, I suggest that annually, well-decayed cow-manure and/or bonemeal be worked into the ground in the Fall. The Tree Peony is not subject to any insect injury, however, in some locations and during rainy periods, they may be subjected to Boytrytis Blight; when it appears, remove the wilted branches. The plant usually replaces these branches in a matter of weeks. To prevent Boytrytis, spray once before the blossoms open and once or twice afterwards. Use Bordeaux, Fermate or its equivalent, and cover foliage and branches.



Massachusetts Horticultural Society  
Award for Informal Garden 1947



Federation of Rhode Island  
Garden Clubs Award for Informal  
Garden 1939



## DESCRIPTIVE PRICE LIST OF OUR TREE PEONIES

No effort has been spared to obtain and to propagate the finest varieties that the world offers. I have listed below the jewels which I believe will be the most exciting plants in your garden. Your absolute satisfaction is guaranteed.

### FIELD GROWN PLANTS 3 TO 5 YEARS OLD

these plants should produce 3 to 5 flowers first year after planting

#### DOUBLE CHINESE VARIETIES

	Each
ATHLETE, large double flowers of fine glazed mauve shaded rose vigorous, prolific .....	\$8.50
JULES PIRLOT, A magnificent variety of perfect globular form. Satiny pink flushed carmine. Very free blooming .....	8.50
SOUVENIR DE DUCHER, Large globular, bright reddish violet bloom with silvery reflex, finest of the darks .....	9.00

#### THE MARVELOUS AND NOVEL LUTEA HYBRIDS

ARGOSY, Single flower of clear sulphur yellow with a red blotch at the base of the petal, Flowers are from 5 to 8 inches, free flowering .....	10.50
AURORE, Single flowers on tall stems. The broad petals are of a coppery terra cotta .....	10.50
FLAMBEAU, Full double flower of bright salmon red with amaranth veins passing to a paler shade. A great novelty .....	12.00
LA LORRAINE. Awarded a "Work of Art" at Paris Horticultural Exhibition, 1913; first-class silver medal at the Ghent Quinquennial Exhibition 1913, first-class certificate from the Floral committee at the Royal Horticultural Society, 1913. The flowers are large and well formed, petals nearly imbricated, being soft sulphur yellow with salmon tinge when opening — become lighter and purer when expanded, very free blooming .....	15.00
SATIN ROUGE, Double blood-orange flower, a new color in Tree Peonies Vigorous growth — bright green foliage .....	12.00
SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU. Forms a plant 3 to 4 feet high which produces many beautifully shaped full double flowers of a deep yellow heavily shaded orange salmon. Fragrant (A. M. R. H. S.) .....	15.00
SURPRISE, Large full double flowers with irregular petals in a mixed color of straw yellow, pale salmon and rosy purple; blooms are set on tall stems. This plant possesses a truly novel character, Fragrant .....	15.00

## JAPANESE VARIETIES

<b>FLORA</b> , One of the most enchantingly beautiful flowers; pure transparent white, slightly blotched violet-carmine in the throat. Immense flowers of marvelous form .....	15.00
<b>*HOWZAN</b> , (Mountain Treasure), Most noble flower of luminous pink, strong grower, free bloomer .....	18.00
<b>*TAMA-FUYO</b> , (Jeweled Lotus), "Lotus-shaped flower of soft flesh color Fairest of all, early flowering .....	12.00
<b>*YAE-ZAKURA</b> , (Host to the Cherry Blossom), Large perfect formed semi-double pink blossoms. A refined beauty .....	18.00
<b>*UBATAMA</b> , (Black Flame), A double flower of Glistening blackish red. No purple showing. This is one's pride variety .....	35.00
<b>YASO-NO-MINE</b> , Very large double flowers of the purest white, on strong upright stems. One of the finest white we know of .....	22.50
<b>YASO-OKINE</b> : Pure double white flowers on strong stems, immense blooms fall only .....	24.00

\*Large plants with 30 to 40 blossoms at \$40.00 to \$60.00 each.

### 2 Year Field Grown Plants — Inexpensively Priced

#### CHINESE AND JAPANESE AND LUTEA HYBRIDS AS LISTED

<b>AMARANTHA</b> , Fully double blooms, pink with carmine base .....	\$4.50
<b>BYOU DE CHUSAN</b> , A pure double white .....	6.00
<b>CHROMATELLA</b> , Clear sulphur yellow, very choice .....	7.50
<b>DIAMOND</b> , Large blooms of brilliant Rose .....	6.00
<b>FLAMBEAU</b> , Double salmon-red, novelty .....	6.00
<b>FLORA</b> , Enchanting, pure transparent white, immense flowers .....	6.00
<b>FRAGRANS MAXIMA PLENA</b> , Full double, Salmon pink .....	6.00
<b>GIOKU-SENSHIU</b> , Clear carmine .....	7.50
<b>HAKUGAN</b> , A pure white variety of semi double blooms .....	4.50
<b>IRO-NO-SEKI</b> (Barrier of Gay Color) deep salmon, double flowers .....	6.00
<b>KONRON-KOKU</b> (Land of Konron) Velvet maroon, Japanese Favorite .....	6.00
<b>LA LORRAINE</b> , (Work of Art), sulphur yellow, large blossoms .....	7.50
<b>LOUIS MOUCHELET</b> , double rose colored blossoms of great size .....	6.00
<b>MME. FERDINAND LeMAITRE</b> , silvery rose and carmine, fragrant .....	6.00
<b>MME. STUART LOW</b> , Salmon-red blossoms, double, a favorite .....	4.50
<b>METEORE</b> , clear pink flowers, double .....	4.50
<b>MOUNT VESUVE</b> , rosy-red, double .....	6.00
<b>ONYX</b> , a real lively red .....	6.00
<b>RURIBAN</b> (Indigo-Purple Tray), Maroon shaded purple, fragrant .....	7.50
<b>SATIN ROUGE</b> , Blood-orange, a new color strong grower .....	7.50
<b>SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU</b> , yellow with carmine border, double .....	6.00
<b>YANO-OKIMA</b> . Pure white, semi-double .....	6.00

A number of these plants are available when in full growth with bloom buds during May and June. Pot-Grown at the same Prices as above quoted. You may select these plants and carry them home with you, they are ready to plant.

**UNNAMED VARIETIES**, sold to color only, many fine plants included.

Pink, singles, semi-doubles and doubles, no separate types .....	3.50
Reds and Purples, singles, semi-doubles and doubles .....	3.50
Whites and flushed whites, single, semi-doubles and doubles .....	3.50
Yellows and oranges, singles, semi-double and doubles .....	4.50

Plant instructions with each order shipped.



## THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

The Christmas Rose is an herbaceous Perennial native to the rocky regions of Southern Europe and Western Asia. Its perfection of flower and season of bloom have earned for it such other colorful names as winter rose, snow rose, Christ herb and others; there are many stories which connect the Christmas Rose with the birth of the Christ Child.

This flower strangely loves the bitterness of winter and the flower buds appear late in October. The buds force their way up through the snow and grow to a height of 8 inches; then, while the bud is still quite small, it faces the strongest light and opens, going from cup shape to flat. When fully open the flowers measure  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches across. They usually remain showy for a good five weeks. The leaves measure 6 to 8 inches and offer good protection for the buds until they bloom.

The Christmas Rose is a profuse bloomer and it is not at all uncommon for a plant which is only five years old to carry 50 or more blooms. Because of its profusion of bloom it is an excellent seasonal plant whose flowers can be combined with other seasonal material for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bouquets will last two weeks at house temperatures.

## *Planting Instructions*

Hellebores like a deep, rich soil which will retain some moisture. A neutral to moderately alkaline soil has been recommended by most nurserymen; however, they will grow well in slight acidity.

They should be sheltered from severe west or north winds in winter and from hot afternoon sun in summer. It is best to plant them near buildings or at the edge of shrubbery. They are ideal for use in conjunction with Rhododendrons. As their roots go down 15 inches, it is not wise to plant too near large trees where root competition is severe.

In the Spring and Fall, when the plant is most active, it is very greedy for water. At this time it is advisable to give them a feeding of a good fertilizer.

The experienced gardener can successfully transplant the Christmas Rose at any season, but they are more easily shipped by the nursery from late August to November.

Hellebores make excellent house plants. When planted in 6-inch or 8-inch pots, they can be easily forced to bloom indoors during the winter months.

The best time to plant *Helleborus Niger* is in September and October into a well-drained, moist soil. It is a sensitive plant to transplant; do not disturb established plants.

We offer only New England-grown plants.

Prices: 3 for \$3.50; 5 for \$5.10; 10 for \$9.65; 25 for \$21.25. All Post Paid.

*Helleborus Niger Rubra*, New England-grown Christmas Rose, differs a little from the white variety, as it blooms a little later and the foliage and flower stems are erect. The flowers are a striking shade of deep maroon red and more abundant than the white variety, \$2.75 per plant, post paid.



We consider the following plants as greatly desirable for permanent plantings:

HARDY AZALEAS IN VARIETY

HYBRID RHODODENDRONS IN VARIETY

HOLLIES IN VARIETY

PYRACANTHA WITH SCARLET BERRIES

CORNUS FLORIDA PENDULA (WEEPING)

JAPANESE CHERRIES, UPRIGHT AND WEEPING

LABURNUM VOSSI IMPROVED

MAGNOLIAS, PINK AND RED

JAPANESE YEWS

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